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**From:** Gary Cooper <gcooper@cooperdesigninc.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:10 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Michigan House Bill HB5232, HISTORIC DISTRICT ACT

[REDACTED]:

**Could you please distribute this email to the Local Government Committee members listed below.**

Lee Chatfield (R) Committee Chair, 107th District  
Amanda Price (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 89th District  
Kurt Heise (R) 20th District  
David Maturen (R) 63rd District  
Jim Rūnestad (R) 44th District  
Jason Sheppard (R) 56th District  
Lana Theis (R) 42nd District  
Jeremy Moss (D) Minority Vice-Chair, 35th District  
Charles Brunner (D) 96th District  
David Rutledge (D) 54th District  
Sheldon Neeley (D) 34th District

**Representatives and Senators:**

I would like to express my displeasure and dismay at HB 5253 introduced by yourself and representative Peter Macgregor yesterday.

As an architect and landscape architect, specializing in historic preservation and adaptive building reuse, I have seen the enormous cultural and economic benefits of the present Historic District Act. Michigan has been a leader in preserving its historic building resources which has had both cultural and economic benefits, in addition to enhancing the sustainability of our built environment.

I often see a knee-jerk reaction from some of the public and business communities about the present Historic District Act being 'onerous.' My experience is that when the public and business communities become involved in Historic Preservation and become more familiar with the Act and procedures, they generally come away with positive impressions of the process and its results.

The City of Grand Rapids and the surrounding area, as well as, numerous communities throughout the state, have benefited greatly from the current Historic Preservation Act. It would be a shame to end this positive process as a result of your proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

Gary Cooper

The following link from Preservation Detroit is typical of the reaction to this bill in the preservation community throughout the state:

<http://preservationdetroit.org/local-historic-districts-under-threat-in-michigan-contact-your-representative-today/>